

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 11, 2003. Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 8-10 are allowed.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has so amended Claims 1-7 and currently believes them in condition for allowance at this time.

In response to the Office Action's objection to the drawings, Applicant respectfully requests that substitute Figs. 3-8, incorporating text labels in boxes, be entered. Two (2) copies of substitute Figs. 3-8 are herewith included. No new matter is added by substitute Figs. 4-8. Applicant respectfully believes the changes to Figs. 3-8 adequately respond to the objection to the drawings and respectfully request its withdrawal.

In response to the Office Action's objection to the specification, Applicant respectfully believes the amendments to

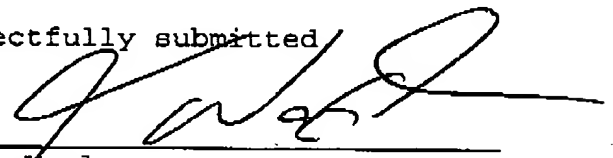
the specification and abstract adequately respond to the objection and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

In response to the Office Action's objection to Claim 5, Applicant respectfully believes the amendment to Claim 5 adequately responds to the objection and respectfully requests its withdrawal.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to recite method steps. Applicant respectfully believes the amendments to Claim 1 adequately respond to the rejection and requests its withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentable. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted

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February 10, 2004